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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 608

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Colonel Tom French  
Elam of Union City.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Colonel Tom Elam; and

WHEREAS, Tom Elam was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, he will live forever in our hearts as a kind and generous gentleman who was a stalwart supporter of the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born in Union City on May 27, 1909, Tom Elam graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1931 and received his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1934; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Tom married the former Kathleen Hyneman of Corinth, Mississippi; they endured the joys and sorrows of life as one for 52 loving and wonderful years; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished member of the Bar, Tom Elam was a senior member of the law firm of Elam, Glasgow and Acree in Union City; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Colonel Elam was appointed to the University of Tennessee Athletic Board and in 1954 he was appointed to the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, during his meritorious tenure on the Board of Trustees, Colonel Elam astutely served as vice chairman of the Board from 1975-1979; and

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WHEREAS, he also served with acumen and acuity as Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of the Athletic Board; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Tom Elam was the longest serving member on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Elams' profound generosity and support for the University of Tennessee was evinced in their donation of more than one million dollars to academic and athletic programs to the UT campuses at Martin, Knoxville and Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a retired Colonel of the United States Army, Tom Elam was appointed Civilian Aide Emeritus to the Secretary of the Army in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Tom Elam was a life member of the Judicial Conference for the Sixth United States Circuit Court and was a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, he was also an officer of the Tennessee Bar Association as well as a member of the American, Tennessee and Obion County Bar Associations; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Elam was an active and vibrant part of his community, participating in numerous community organizations, including the Union City Rotary Club and the Union City and Obion County Chamber of Commerce, where he had served as president; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Tom Elam was an active and devout member of the First Christian Church, of which he served as an elder and chairman of its board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Colonel Tom Elam leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Colonel Tom Elam, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and many selfless contributions to the University of Tennessee, his profession and his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Colonel Tom Elam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.